

PEACE IN OUR TIME

by Albert Ford

(adapted from the November-December 1995 MRS Newsletter. This seems to be an appropriate time to contemplate peace both in our gardens and the world .)

You probably have read that 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the wonderful rose, 'Peace.' In a way, this is true, for it was in 1945 that the Conard Pyle Company introduced 'Peace' to the U.S. market. Modern Roses 10 reports 1945 as the date of introduction of the rose. The beginning, however, was much earlier, according to Jack Harkness ¹, for as he reports, the rose known in the United States and England as 'Peace' came to life in 1935. It was bred by the French hybridizer Francis Meilland on June 15th of that year. Harry Wheatcroft and many other writers report the date of introduction as 1943 ², however, Harkness believes the year was 1942 when it was introduced in France under the name 'Madame A. Meilland,' in honor of the mother of the hybridizer.

The story is legendary that bud wood of the rose was sent by Francis Meilland to nurserymen friends in Italy, Germany and the United States. The story says that the bud wood sent to Conard Pyle in West Grove (near Kennett Square), Pennsylvania, left on the last plane out of France before hostilities began for that country.

After prorogation, in Italy the rose was given the name 'Joy' and it was called 'Glory To God' in Germany. The name 'Peace', for the same rose, was selected by the Conard Pyle Co., in West Grove, PA. The answer to how they came up with the name was reported in the Sept Oct, 1991 MRS Newsletter about an advertisement by the company which read: "When the wonderful new Meilland Rose came to us from France we invited and had a hundred suggestions from which the name "Peace" was chosen, for why should not the world's greatest rose wear the name of the world's fondest hope 'Peace.'?" ³

As to other memorable dates associated with 'Peace,' the following short article was provided to this editor by Adelaide Lee and appeared in the Nov Dec, 1988 issue of the MRS Newsletter: "The rose variety known in this country as 'Peace' was sent to America by Francis Meilland when Germany invaded France. After extensive testing, it was decided to name it at a ceremony on April 29, 1945 and on that day Berlin fell. The American Rose Society sent 'Peace' roses to the delegates to the new United Nations gathering for their first meeting and on the very day the war ended in Europe. The All American award was given to 'Peace' on the day Japan surrendered and the Gold Metal was awarded to it the day Japan signed the peace treaty. All these were coincidences, for the dates involving the rose had been arranged far ahead." ⁴

'Peace' is still one of the world's favorite garden roses and is a best seller of nurseries in this country. It is still seen in rose shows and often is on the awards table. It is popular also as a seed or pollen parent in hybridizing programs to produce new roses. Modern Roses 10 must list over 100 varieties whose parentage includes 'Peace' or the other names it is known as in Europe. There are a number of roses who have borrowed the name 'Peace' as a part of their own name, such as 'Pink Peace' or 'Chicago Peace.' This is because they are a mutation (or sport) of 'Peace' or their relation to the famous parent is reflected in both their name and ancestry.

References

1. Harkness, Jack. The Makers of Heavenly Roses, London: Souvenir Press Ltd., 1985.
2. Wheatcroft, Harry, In Praise of Roses, Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1970.
3. The American Rose Magazine, March April, 1948, opposite page 407.
4. The Avant Gardener, May 1, 1987.

Can't Wait for Spring? Cooking with Roses in the Winter.

by Marcie Shawn Cowie, past MRS president,

(adapted from the January-February 1994 MRS Newsletter)

Since we are approximately three months away from our favorite pastime, rose gardening, I have found another interesting hobby to share with you. I have been ferreting out antique recipes using roses!! From Pepperidge Farms' Cookbook comes this interesting recipe for cherry tarts dating back to 1475.

"Grind sour cherries in a mortar after they have been stored. When these are ground, add red roses, finely chopped, a little fresh cheese and a little old cheese, ground, a little pepper, ginger and sugar; mix in 4 broken eggs. After the mixture has been lined with a crust, cook it in a well-greased pan over a slow fire. When it has been removed from the fire, pour over sugar and rosewater."

A second recipe was printed in the July 28th Sunday Sun (Ellen Hawks, Staff Writer). It was submitted by Nancy Lagrace of Stewartstown, Pa. I wonder if Nancy is a rosarian?

Lagrace's Rose Water Pudding

Serves 4 to 6

5 tablespoons cornstarch or rice flour
1 can (14 1/2-ounces) evaporated milk
2 tablespoons rose water
dash of red food coloring
pistachio nuts to sprinkle on top

Mix the rice flour or cornstarch with enough milk to make a paste. Put the remaining milk in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add a little boiling milk to the rice-flour paste, then combine the paste and milk. Place over low heat and stir 4 to 5 minutes until it thickens and will coat the spoon fairly heavily. Take saucepan off the heat and stir in the rose water and enough red coloring to tint the mixture a pale pink. Pour into a large bowl or individual dishes and chill. Before serving sprinkle with pistachio nuts.

Another reader from White Marsh advises: " Be bold and follow your own imagination as to when and how much rose water to use. It is good in cookies and cakes. Just one teaspoon of it in a small jar of apple jelly and it is heavenly on toast. And, it is

good in applesauce and with pears. Taste and stir, your own taste will dictate. You can use more rose water than vanilla, probably doubled, as flavoring."

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